

IN-SERVICE

Summer

Volume No. 73

August 2000

W6LMJ Calling Zion

Terry Redding W6LMJ

My experience with ASCRA over the years has changed. It began when I was fairly new to amateur radio in 1975. At that time I held a Conditional Class License (WB5LMJ) and was newly assigned to Fort Ord, California. Fort Ord was adjacent to Seaside, just to the north of Monterey on the California coast. About 110 miles south of Barbara's hometown of Pacifica, California.

Barbara was in the process of licensing. Her mentor (Elmer) was the now famous Art Bell, W6OBB, of late night AM talk radio fame. Back then he was an ex-GI with shoulder length hair and active in the local amateur radio community.

My "shack" was located in a large closet - no windows. All antennas were fed with coax passed through the attic to the outside through the eave of the house. Over the first six months at Fort Ord I tried a number of antennas beginning with a dipole, then a vertical, and finally ending with a tri-band beam on a portable tower. I retained the vertical for 40 and 80 meter operations.

When I first heard of the ASCRA net I was excited to be able to contact the Center Place. I had never been to Independence, Missouri and held visions of a large community of saints actively building Zion on Earth. Both of my grandparents had lived in Independence. I still had an aunt living in Blue Springs, my father's sister. My mother had been to a few world conferences. But I had never been there. For me it was an imaginary, vision of a place. The most special place on Earth.

I am not sure how I learned of the ASCRA net. But I remember the first few weeks listening for the net on Monday evenings at about 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Ed, K7RER, from Oregon and a few of the California ASCRA were there with me. We could hear and speak with each other, but heard nothing from WØSHQ (W O rld S aints H ead Q uarters). It was several weeks before it dawned on me that 0230 GMT (I don't believe we had changed to the UTC designation yet) Monday, was not a Monday night schedule. We were listening on the wrong day. We should have been on 3950 KHz on Sunday evenings, not Monday evenings.

Once we solved the day of the week problem we still encountered difficulties. From California the 75 meter ASCRA was only workable during winter months. Much of the year the sun was just setting as the net was beginning. Later, during the winter months, I started hearing WAØEMX, and then as winter deepened, other stations on the net.

Signals were weak. The band noisy. Just being able to hear the other ASCRA stations took great effort. But the west coast 75 meter stations made the effort and over time we were able to make ourselves heard.

Since that time, some 25 years ago, I have been through the process associated with establishing a station capable of working ASCRA many times. It has always been a priority for me. Fort Ord was the first. Then a temporary station in Lawton, Oklahoma. Then a temporary station in Augsburg, West Germany. Then a more permanent station in Ludwigsburg

West Germany, then Lawton again, then the Republic of Panama, Lawton again, and now West Palm Beach, Florida. Each time I set up a station - I gauge its worthiness against how well I am able to participate in the ASCRA net.

I have noted with great joy the recent influx of new stations checking into the ASCRA net. I know that these newly upgraded operators are joining in the journey across time to establish contact with other ASCRA stations and in a way - contribute towards the building of a wide-zion community. Each working to improve their signal, measuring their stations performance against how well they are able to make contact. I welcome them.

Over the years I have been to Independence, to WØSHQ, to the Center Place, numerous times. The magic has never left me. The view of the Temple from the WØSHQ antenna has become my favorite image of Zion. It takes effort to be part of the ASCRA net each Sunday. But it is a worthy effort because during the time of the net I am able to personally participate in a global way in the building of Zion.

I look forward to many more years of ASCRA operations and net participation.

73 - Terry
W6LMJ
West Palm Beach FL

* * * *

Editorial

This comment is a footnote to Terry's article. Editorials don't belong on the front page but since this pertains to Terry's article here goes...

Three cheers for Terry! He has not lost his high expectations for Zion in the Center Place! If the rest of us could share his positive expectations for Zion, and act that way, what a different outlook we would have.

We would be positive, not negative, about our relationships with each other and the future of our organization. We would participate once in a while in the nets and the biennial meetings in Independence. And when ASCRA members from other lands visit us we would help make that a memorable experience for them and send them back home with a positive feeling toward the Center Place.

Finally, if each one of us put out one-tenth the effort that Terry does to participate in ASCRA activities we would prosper.

Comments? Send them to Hale Collins
Route 1 Box 228
Lamoni IA 50140-9595
Or e-mail to w6rwh@arrl.net

Want an ASCRA Roster?

Send \$1 for printing and postage with your request to the above address. Or check the ASCRA web page.

ASCRA SETI SCOREBOARD

July 24, 2000

Call/name	Data units completed
wb6otg	913
ka0vtb	235
Hale Collins	186
kg0ii	182
Rod Schall	177
W6LMJ	77
n0oxk	54
Ernie	48
K0BKZ	14

Congratulations to Holly Cross KAØVTB who has completed her 235 units since the last IN-SERVICE issue.

For Information on the Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence and the ASCRA Group go to:
<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>

Visitor From UK

Mark Riley M1BOP from Ipswich England visited in Independence during June. When at home Mark listens frequently to the 20M net, but does not have his station ready to call in.

Doug and Nancy Shaw prepared sirloin hamburgers and homemade cake and ice cream and invited the Independence ASCRA hams to enjoy a great evening of chat and fellowship. Mark and Doug programed Mark's handytalkie for the local repeater frequencies and he hoped to get some more contacts while in the Independence area.

Australia Contacts

For the past few weeks Terry W6LMJ has been running short path schedules with Fred VK3AQN on 14.287 MHz. Fred's signal has been +20 consistently. Following the schedule Fred has been working other U.S. stations. Verticals, dipoles, random wire antennas, inverted vees and even a wire box two feet off the ground have been used by hams to contact him.

Fred Naylor has been active with ASCRA for more than 20 years. Recently he and Margaret sold their home on the hill, with the tall tower and five element mono-band 20 meter antenna. By the time you read this Fred will have moved and his consistently good DX signal will be off the air.

Fred does have plans to be on the air from the new QTH. But the new location does not provide room for the tower and large Yagi. It also does not provide the high elevation and commanding terrain. We can expect that his signal from the new QTH will be not as reliably good as in the past.

We appreciate Fred's consistent contacts with the ASCRA net on Sundays over the years. We will also listen for his signal from his new location and expect to continue to hear him frequently.

* * * *

From The President

We are deep into antenna construction weather so I hope things are improving at your station. I have a balun problem I'm still hiding from which showed up on a rainy weekend. This is the coolest July on record and I should be out there working on it.

We were sad to hear Fred Naylor, VK3AQN, is moving back into a more civilized area after living in a rural area for many years. There he was able to have a tower and high gain antenna which allowed him to reach all the way from Australia regularly. The work load associated with a large property and many flowers is one of the primary reasons for the change.

While still in good health Fred and Margaret will be living in a smaller home with neighbors close by. Fred plans to erect an antenna of some type and continue searching for the ASCRA net but it will be more difficult.

Recently several ASCRA members met with Fred on a special schedule before he took his tower down. We have found the internet allows us a means of making arrangements to meet Fred on various schedules.

Nothing better than talking to a ham on his radio as compared to E-MAIL, I say.

Yes, Hale wants to include a note or short article from you in the In-Service to let us know more about you. Go ahead and run the risk of writing a note and just see what happens, you might not believe it.

We are trying to get a web page set up with pictures of the ASCRA members whether or not they are in front of their radios. Some of you don't have internet capability, but the rest of us could get to see what you look like, even if you can't look at it.

Got a picture of you that you can part with, just for us? Please send your picture to: Bob Farnham, RR 2, Box 23, Lamoni, IA 50140

73 Ernie WB2UJL

Tom Thatcher W2TFT

You might call Tom Thatcher a roving In-Service reporter. He has toured the western U.S. and visited many ASCRA members. In the summer of 1999 on a trip to the West he scheduled visits to 23 different families, many of them ASCRA members. Tom took photos of several Hams which we will use as space permits in future issues.

Tom was first licensed in 1938. He enjoys checking into ASCRA, local nets and into the Bell Lab Retirees Net. Tom worked for Bell Labs from 1942 until he retired in 1986. He was in the first group selected to be recognized as Distinguished Members of the Technical Staff Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Tom, a High Priest, is active in RLDS church affairs as Non-Resident Pastor of his area, serving on the Grounds Board at Deer Park Campgrounds and at times being Board Chairman. He has served on the Board of Directors of Outreach International and traveled to the Philippines and Nicaragua in connection with that work.

He is active in civic affairs, involved in a historical society, library board, hospice and Habitat for Humanity and is a life member of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Their annual meetings are always on his itinerary for his summer trips.

Tom and his wife, Lois Maxine Constance, who passed away in 1994, have four children and eight grandchildren.

He planned another trip this summer to the Hymn Society Annual Conference in Boston, visiting relatives and friends, including ASCRA member Ernie Miles on the way. Unfortunately, his plans were changed when he had the need for heart surgery (Aortic Valve replacement June 8). He is recovering nicely and still plans to attend the Hymn Society Conference although he will go by air this time and will not get to visit friends along the way. As the year 2001 Hymn Society Conference will be in Independence Missouri, several members of the Church Headquarters Worship Office also will be going to Boston.

Invite Tom to stop and see you next time he is traveling through your area at: Tom Thatcher W2TFT, 195 Arlington Street, Shawano WI 54166-2215 or e-mail: twthatch@frontiernet.net Or call him on the 20M net on Sundays.

ASCRA NETS

20 METER NET

Frequency 14.287 MHZ 1530 Central Time Sunday

Net Control

Ernie, WB2UJL and Terry, W6LMJ and others.

Below are the names and call signs of ASCRA members and others that have checked into the 20M NET since April. I had to leave out some scribbled call signs I couldn't decode.

Ernie

WDØARL, Ed Gordon	W5HKY, Barbara Redding
NØBGG, Larry Oiler	K5ID, Ken Graham
KØBKZ, Gene Chadwick	N5LCL, David Gates
NØELM, Fred Troeh	W5OSL, Tom Brooks Jr.
WDØFEN, Robin Cross	K5RY, Tom Alexander
WAØHLP, Larry Shoemaker	KK5VD, Robert Stiles
WAØBS, Andy Ferrara	N6EAI, Bob Bøssaert
KGØII, Bob Farnham	W6LMJ, Terry Redding
NØKLQ, James Schilling	W6RWH, Hale Collins
ABØLJ, Charles Galick	KY6U, Eldon Hart
WAØNBY, Dick Smith	WB6ZJA, Jim Poulos
AAØOS, Jon Barney	N7CMT, Wallace Sheaffer III
KGØTQ, Steve Fagan	KA7ECY, Harry Howell
NØOXK, Jeff Winship	W7FDL, Floyd Lehman
NØQDY, Bob Rosel	KL7GNW, Pete Shugar
NØRJV, Paul Lombardo	W7KFO, Dave Freitag
NØWZH, Steven Hampton	WB7PPP, George Kendall
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher	KC7RVB, Don Ware
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles	KA7VMA, Dick Wynes
VK3AQN, Fred Naylor	W8BAB, Arnold Lemke
VK3LX, Warren Moulton	K8QA, Mike Oiler
K4DLH, Don Hunt	W8QK, Muirl Robins on
N4TON, George Conley	KG9OA, Jerry Obey
N4WTW, Mike Glowaski	KB9SOE, Scott Taylor
N5ECP, Jeff Salmons	

Please help pay the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter. Send your contribution to ASCRA, Box 73, Independence MO 64051.

Comments, letters to the editor or suggested articles to Hale Collins Route 1 Box 228, Lamoni IA 50140. E-mail w6rwh@arri.net

Lamoni IA 2 Meter Net

Frequency 146.73/13 MHz 1930 Central Time

Net Control Larry Oiler NØBGG

West Coast 75 Net

Frequency 3917 KHz 0530-0600 Pacific Time Mon-Sat

Net Control Bob Laudie WA6SZT

Silent Key

Paul Davis WØPSA

If you use e-mail please send us your present e-mail address so we can update our address list. Send to w6rwh@arrl.net

ASCRA Membership Application/Affirmation & Change of Address

_____	_____	
Name	Call/class	

Address		

_____	_____	_____
City	State/Prov.	Zip/Postal code

Send To: ASCRA		
Donation ?	P.O. Box 73	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independence MO 64051	
Check box if this is a new address		

IN-SERVICE

Publication of the Association of Saints Church Radio
Amateurs

Editor: Hale Collins W6RWH

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